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☐ DESIGN ☒ UTILITY PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: David R. Payne, Gerald A. Stangl,
Norman E. Stevens, Jr., and Michael
F. Gard

Serial No: 10/617,975

Filed: July 12, 2003

For: SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR
AUTOMATICALLY DRILLING AND
BACKREAMING A HORIZONTAL BORE
UNDERGROUND

Att'y Dkt. No.: 082380-00561

Art Unit: 3671

Examiner: Raymond W. Addie

Customer No.: 28839

Mail Stop AF
Commissioner For Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

RESPONSE TO FINAL OFFICE ACTION MAILED JANUARY 21, 2005

REMARKS

The Examiner's Office action mailed January 21, 2005, has been reviewed. In response thereto, the Applicants submit the following remarks.

Claim Rejections 35 U.S.C. § 103

The Examiner rejected claims 4-12 as unpatentable under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Hesse et al. Pat. No. 5,833,015 in view of Alft Pat. No. 6,308,787 B1. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of this rejection.

The Examiner rejected claims 4-11 with the same rejection in an Office action dated July 2, 2004 ("First Action"). In response, Applicants submitted an Amendment and Response ("Response") on November 5, 2004, amending the claims and presenting arguments. The Examiner has, in the present Office action ("Final Action"), maintained the rejection and